

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CS

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: SAN JOSE 049

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 5,
REFTEL:

(A). U.S. ENVISAGES THAT OAS CONSULTATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROPOSED 1975 PROGRAM WOULD CONCENTRATE ON ASPECTS WHERE HEMISPHERE SUPPLIERS MAY HAVE COMMON INTERESTS. FOR EXAMPLE, U.S. WILLING TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS REGARDING REALLOCATION OF SHORTFALLS WITHIN HEMISPHERE AND OTHER LATIN SUGGESTIONS. U.S. ALSO WILLING LISTEN TO VIEWS ON MAJOR ELEMENTS OF PROPOSED PROGRAM (PROGRAM LEVEL, ALLOCATIONS, BASE PERIOD, ETC.). HOWEVER, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HEMISPHERE SUPPLIERS' INTERESTS IN VARIOUS ALLOCATION FORMULAE ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT AND WE BELIEVE PRACTICAL RESOLUTION OF THIS

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ISSUE IN A MULTILATERAL FORUM WOULD BE DIFFICULT. FOR

EXAMPLE, IT IS TRUE THAT A CY 1972-1974 BASE WOULD BE SLIGHTLY (0.5 MILLION POUND) MORE BENEFICIAL FOR COSTA RICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA THAN FY 1972-1974 BASE IN PROPOSED U.S. PROGRAM, BUT IT WOULD BE LESS BENEFICIAL FOR MEXICO,

PANAMA, HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

THE 1973-75 BASE PERIOD CALLED FOR IN THE LAW IS FOR CALCULATING AVERAGE U.S. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF MEAT IN RELATION TO A BASE PERIOD IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT GROWTH FACTOR FOR THE ADJUSTED BASE QUOTA. FOR ALLOCATING QUOTAS THE LAW PROVIDES THAT COUNTRY SHARES SHALL BE DETERMINED FROM A REPRESENTATIVE (READ HISTORICAL) PERIOD.

AS TO THE 1,150 MILLION POUND LEVEL OF IMPORTS, THE U.S. HAS NOT SOUGHT TO IMPOSE THIS FIGURE, BUT TO NEGOTIATE IT. IF OUR ASSUMPTION THAT SUCH A LEVEL OR A FIGURE CLOSE TO IT IS NEGOTIABLE PROVES WRONG, THE U.S. WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO IMPOSE QUOTAS AS PROVIDED IN THE LAW.

(B). AS TO "AVENUE" OR "MECHANISM" FOR NEGOTIATIONS, GOCR MAY COMMUNICATE PROPOSALS TO DEPARTMENT THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

(C). NON-PARTICIPATION OF COSTA RICA WOULD, AS ASSUMED BY EMBASSY, BE STRONG INDICATION THAT MANDATORY QUOTAS WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED. SHARES UNDER MANDATORY PROGRAM WOULD BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW; WE CANNOT NOW SAY WHAT REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD MIGHT BE USED, OR WHAT SPECIAL FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

(D). REMAINDER OF PROGRAM IN U.S. PROPOSAL IS DIVIDED AMONG AUSTRALIA (54.2 PERCENT), NEW ZEALAND (21.9 PERCENT) AND IRELAND (3.0 PERCENT); THESE SHARES COMPARE WITH 1972 PROGRAM SHARES OF 52.0 PERCENT, 21.7 PERCENT AND 6.5 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY.

2. RE PARA 6, REFTTEL, U.S. INTENDS TO OBTAIN AND CONSIDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACTIONS OF ALL COUNTRIES BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED. AS INDICATED ABOVE, BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND SCCN CONSULTATIONS ARE DIFFERENT IN NATURE AND INTENDED TO SERVE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PURPOSES. THEY, NEVERTHELESS, WILL OBVIOUSLY BE COMPLEMENTARY. KISSINGER

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